

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3B. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3B, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3B. In Figure 3B, previously omitted reference numerals have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Remarks/Arguments

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification because FIGURE 2H needed to be changed to FIGURE 2I. This change has been made.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figure 3B. A replacement drawing has been submitted for FIGURE 3B.

Claim Rejections — 35 U.S.C. § 112

Several claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 Applicant has amended the claims in such a way that the terms the Examiner found to be indefinite are no longer in the claims.

Claim Rejections — 35 USC § 102

Claim 1 and Claim 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Knutson (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0087416).

Knutson recites a system for providing content such as educational, informational, or learning content. The content is pulled from the Internet according to various user profiles. The profile is interactively developed from the individual, stored in a relational database, and continuously updated. (See Abstract of Knutson.)

Knutson, however, does not include the following limitations, which are present in some form in amended Claim 1 and Claim 30: generating first filtering criteria utilizing user attributes; accessing at least one database relating to the at least one individualized instructional program, the database comprising modules; generating second filtering criteria based on the first filtering criteria, the second filtering criteria comprising: at least one primary document in the at least one database, the at least one primary document generated by an intra-module filter accessing information only within one module; and at least one secondary document, the secondary document generated by an inter-module filter accessing information in at least two modules. The limitation relating to the first filtering criteria which utilizes user attributes is supported by, for example, Figure 6, and page 18, lines 1-21 of the specification. The limitations related to inter-module filtering and inter-module filtering are

supported by, for example, Figures 1, 2B, 2C-2H, and page 6, line 1 to page 7, line 6 of the specification.

Applicant also notes that the above limitations are also not present in additional art cited by the Examiner: Sloan (U.S. Patent 5,813,863). In particular, Sloan does not include the limitation of receiving filtering criteria relating to user attributes, which is supported by, for example, Figure 6, and page 18, lines 1-21 of the specification.

By generating first filtering criteria from user attributes, and then using the first filtering criteria to generate documents in the database, a list of documents related to an individual's instructional program can be easily identified. Thus, for example, if a person submitted user attribute information that showed that, among other things, they wrote well, had an aptitude for science, and lived in Oregon, the first filtering criteria could be identified for writing, science, and Oregon. Then this first filtering criteria could be applied in second filtering criteria: an intra-module search to find all of the documents in one module that had material relating to both writing and science. Thus, for example, if the user chose the institution, funding and employers module of Figure 2B, and did a search, then the writing and science aptitude, and Oregon geography filtering criteria would be applied to some or all of the submodules. Thus, for example, the disciplines, colleges, and geographic locations submodules could be searched to find all disciplines, colleges, and geographic locations that matched the first filtering criteria. Thus, for example, two primary documents explaining two different disciplines could be returned: engineering and technical writing. The colleges and locations that offered these disciplines in Oregon would also be returned. To perform the second filtering criteria related to the inter-module search, the colleges and locations that offered engineering and technical writing in Oregon could be applied as filtering criteria to another module, such as the pursuits module, to find secondary documents explaining internships in Oregon for those with engineering and technical writing degrees.

Applicant thus submits that Claim 1 and Claim 30 are patentable over Knutson. Claims 2-9, 12-14, 16-21, 25-28, 31-35, and 37-43 depend on Claim 1 or Claim 30 and are thus patentable for the same reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. An early and favorable indication of same is kindly requested. If any point

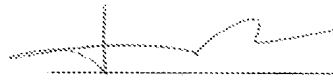
Appl. No. 10/657,562
Amdt. Dated December 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2006

remains at issue, however, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in the fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account
No. 50-3266.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER US LLP



Dale S. Lazar
Registration No. 28,872
Attorney for Applicant

Lisa K. Norton
Registration No. 44,977

LKN/maf
PO Box 9271
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 773.4149 Telephone
(703) 773.5200 Fax

Attachment